

RE: HB 6824 Restoring funding for Community Plans for Early Childhood Collaboratives

March 2, 2015

Emailed to:

APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Senator Bye and Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am Denise Duclos, School Readiness Project Director for the New Haven School Readiness Initiative. I am submitting this testimony for **HB No. 6824** to urge you to reinstate the funding for Community Plans for Early Childhood Collaboratives.

The New Haven Early Childhood Council (NHECC) is mandated by School Readiness legislation to advise the Mayor and Superintendent on early childhood issues, assess the need for early care services, improve its quality, and make policy decisions about New Haven's School Readiness Grant. Over 25 community members take this very seriously and meet monthly to address these issues.

Without this funding, the NHECC loses the ability to convene members and stakeholders to raise issues, collect and analyze data, and create effective strategies to grow and nurture the early childhood system in New Haven. The work will become more fragmented, and less effective, and we will be sorely limited in our ability to leverage additional funding.

By reinstating the Community Plan funds, each community more than matches the funds with local investments—both financial and in our collaborative efforts to reach all young children.

Thank you

Denise Duclos
161 West Park Ave
New Haven, CT 06511